

Sangamon Valley LEPC

P.O. Box 2105, Springfield IL 62705

January 19, 2012

Summary Report Relative to LEPC Activities During 2011

During calendar year 2011, the Sangamon Valley LEPC convened regularly scheduled meetings on five occasions: January 20, March 17, May 19, September 15 and November 17. A quorum of our membership was present at each of these meetings. Meetings were held at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (3, January/March/May), Athens Community Park (1, May) and the Sangamon County Office of Emergency Management (1, September).

The January LEPC meeting was attended by 16 members and 2 visitors. It provided the Chair, David Butt, with the opportunity to present the committee with the 2010 LEPC Summary Report which was reviewed and approved for submission to the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC). Prior to the year's start, our Independent Contractor, Matt Helms, had completed site specific plans for 60 facilities storing Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) and for 2 facilities storing bulk fuel at a terminal. One facility with a plan had been vacated in 2010, and Matt did not revise that plan on its anniversary in January.

Only one facility in our planning district with storage of EHS above the threshold planning quantity (TPQ), Custom Chemical Engineering, lacked a site specific plan as 2011 began, and this facility had just filed its initial Tier 2 form with the SERC on December 29, 2010. The January meeting was used by the committee to discuss the extent of Custom's chemical inventory and our risk concerns from its location. A commitment was made to try to have a site specific plan completed for Custom within 90 days which would include Material Data Safety Sheets for all chemicals it stores.

The March LEPC meeting was attended by 13 members and 3 visitors. Member Billy Ousley presented information on a wide range of topics important to the committee originating from the National Weather Service. He was asked to bring further information on data acquisition to a future meeting. His explanation of the flood potential for the Sangamon River was right on the mark and foreshadowed the impact of flash flood events that would unfold on June 18, 2010.

The May LEPC meeting was attended by 15 members and 4 visitors. This was the third year that we held our May meeting in Menard County. Something we intend to continue. Our progress on receiving 2010 Tier 2 forms was deemed as complete, with 142 received by late May. Conference reports were given by Member Tracy Garrison on GIS used in preparation for disasters and by the Chair and Independent Contractor on the annual Midwest Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference. We heard from the SERC that the current FFY2011 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant was being questioned by USDOT for every LEPC sub-grantee in the state. We were instructed to immediately begin our application for the FFY2012 grant, as it would be subject to extensive questioning before it could be approved.

While our July meeting was again skipped in 2011 (as a sort of summer vacation for the LEPC), there was no shortage of work being done by the Chair and SERC on behalf of the committee's standing for the HMEP grant. Numerous requests for information by USDOT about our site specific planning project were answered by the SERC using explanatory narratives provided by the Chair, trying to show "a nexus between our project and hazmat transportation". With this motivation, the Chair and the Independent Contractor looked for other facilities among the 142 Tier 2 forms we held for which writing a site specific plan was warranted.

The September LEPC meeting was attended by 21 members and 8 visitors. It was our annual meeting giving the public an opportunity to review planning documents and ask questions. A press release to this effect had been issued and the visitors attended for the primary purpose to look over our plans. A total of 72 site specific plans were on display: 55 plans for EHS storage above the TPQ; 15 plans for EHS storage below the TPQ and 2 plans for bulk fuel terminals which do not store EHS, but pose a substantial risk to their communities. Our LEPC's initial goal to have a written plan for every facility in the planning district which reports storage of EHS on its Tier 2 form above the TPQ has been met. The second goal of our LEPC to always make an annual update to every written plan has been continuously met. The third goal of our LEPC to find and work with facilities in our planning district which should be filing Tier 2 forms, but are not, was also met this year when we completed the site specific plan for Custom Chemical Engineering in April. At year's end we are working with a facility in the Riverton Area Fire Protection District needing to file a Tier 2 form.

At the September LEPC meeting the Chair announced a new goal, to be the fourth for our committee. This is to have a written plan for every facility in the planning district which reports storage of propane, just as we have been doing since 2009 for every facility in the planning district which reports storage of bulk fuel at a terminal. Planning for bulk fuel at a terminal and intending to plan for propane were important parts of our presentation during the summer to USDOT for showing a nexus between our project and hazmat transportation. Just prior to the September LEPC meeting, USDOT approved our site specific planning project for reimbursement with HMEP grant funds. The Chair also announced that having completed written plans for facilities storing EHS above the TPQ, we were expanding this goal to have a written plan for every facility in the planning district which reports storage of any EHS on its Tier 2 form, regardless of the quantity.

The September meeting also saw the LEPC extend our agreement with the Independent Contractor for another year to continue our site specific planning project. An election for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair was scheduled for the November LEPC meeting. With concurrence by the committee, the Chair divided the Emergency Coordinator position into Co-Emergency Coordinators for Sangamon and Menard Counties and appointed the Emergency Manager for each county to these roles.

The November LEPC meeting was attended by 11 members and 2 visitors. An election was held for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. David Butt continues as Chair and Bill Russell, Sangamon County Rescue Squad Chief, is the new Vice Chair.

Member Pat Metz wrote the scenario for an early November full scale exercise of a chlorine release, addressing objectives of CWLP and Springfield Fire Department. At the conclusion of his review of the exercise, the Chair used this opportunity during the November meeting to conduct a discussion-based tabletop exercise. Every member present was involved.

Finally, at the November meeting the Chair shared with the committee the beginning language for rewriting Section 9 of the Sangamon County EOP as a Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan fulfilling the planning requirements under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. This plan was completed and submitted to IEMA Region 6 and the SERC on December 29.

Statistics for LEPC activities during 2011 are as follows:

128 Tier 2 forms were received for sites within Sangamon County. 14 Tier 2 forms were received for sites within Menard County. Of these 142 filings, 81 included at least one EHS chemical and 61 were for non-EHS sites. Our Independent Contractor completed 20 new site specific plans. This brings his total over 6 years to 82 (one site is now vacated). Of these 82 completed plans, 6 received their first annual revision, 13 received their second annual revision, 17 received their third annual revision, 12 received their fourth annual revision and 13 received their fifth annual revision during 2011. The Independent Contractor drove over 6,000 miles during 2011 while pursuing our site specific planning project for EHS chemicals stored within Sangamon and Menard Counties. Sangamon Valley LEPC has 31 members.

Respectfully submitted,

DButt

LEPC Chair